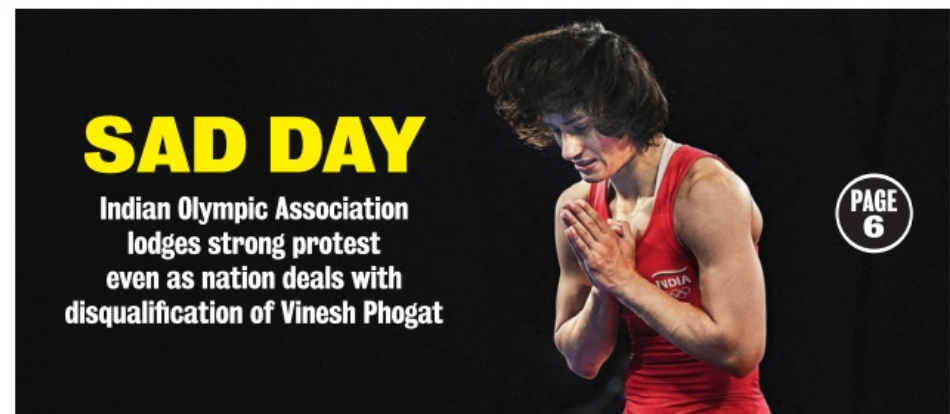




Though platform screen doors may be included in new phase of metro, BMRCL faces three main challenges in implementing them on its existing network

PLEASE MIND THE GAP

Installing PSD at single station can cost up to Rs 10 crore

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Recent incidents of suicide at metro platforms have underscored the urgent need for enhanced safety measures. Platform Screen Doors (PSDs) are emerging as a crucial solution to mitigate these tragic events. However, implementing PSDs poses three important challenges, particularly for existing metro stations. While the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) plans to install PSDs in upcoming phases of the metro expansion, integrating them into the existing Phase One network is proving to be complex.

A senior BMRCL official explained, "One of the primary technical challenges is synchronising the PSDs with the existing train signalling systems. The implementation requires a sophisticated software upgrade to ensure that the PSDs operate seamlessly with the trains. This involves transitioning from the old system to one compatible with PSD technology, a process that is both time-consuming and costly. The integration of PSDs with train signals necessitates a complete overhaul of the existing system. We need to install specialised software to manage this synchronisation, which demands substantial time

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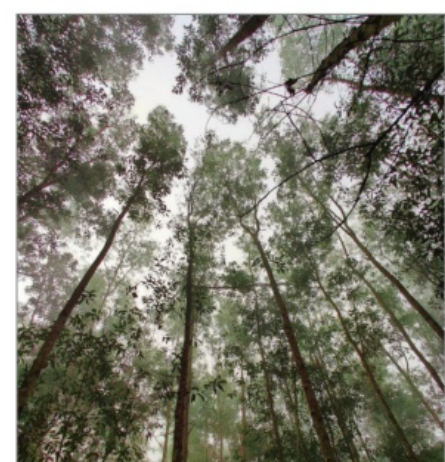


One of the primary technical challenges is synchronising the PSDs with the existing train signalling systems. The implementation requires a sophisticated software upgrade to ensure that the PSDs operate seamlessly with the trains

— BMRCL official

Into the great wide open

Biodiversity Management Committee members to visit Jarakabande Kaval forest to figure out how to enhance its green cover



| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is in the process of scrutinising a range of spaces in and around Bengaluru to enhance the city's biodiversity.

The most recent addition to their list is Jarakabande Kaval forest. Committee members will be visiting the city's lung space over the coming days to inspect the area and devise an action plan to enhance its green cover and biodiversity.

"Jarakabande Kaval forest is a vast space. However, the number of trees standing is less than desired. There is room for more, and we plan to improve this green patch accordingly. We will also inspect the forest area for the presence of native species.

Native species in urban green patches play a significant role in supporting animal biodiversity, thus improving overall biodiversity," said Prof. Dr. Nandini, a BMC member.

Members say enhancing the city's green patches will help improve the carbon sequestration potential of the green patch and reduce the land surface temperature

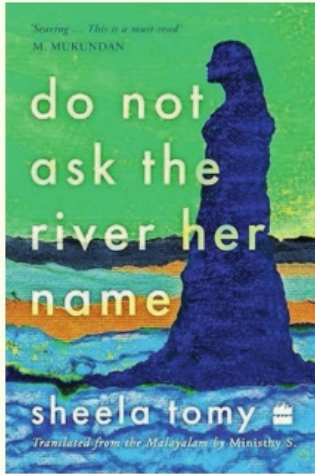
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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Insightful read

Join Sheela Tomy, Ministhy S, and Arul Mani as they discuss Tomy's latest novel, "Do Not Ask the River Her Name." The book touches on the Israel-Palestine conflict with a deep dive into the rich history and culture of the region; sheds light on the plight of women in India leaving home in search of work; and talks about finding hope through grief. Themes of displacement, migration, humanity, and love run through the poignant novel.

Where: Champaca Bookstore, Off Queens Road
When: August 9, 6 pm



02 Art showcase



Explore "Mystic India Collection," artist Resham Sahi's first show ever at the Bangalore International Centre. The show unfolds as a sensory feast, where each piece is a symphony of vivid hues and varied mediums. From the delicate precision of ink to the lush textures of oils and the vibrant layers of acrylics, Sahi's canvases transcend categorisation, reflecting an uninhibited spirit that paints with the raw emotion of the heart rather than the constraints of convention.

Where: BIC-Sanchi Art Gallery, Domlur II Stage
When: August 10 to 12, 11 am to 6 pm

03 Story time

Here's a unique and immersive experience for children aged 8-14 years. The National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) invites children to "Tales and Treasures," a story-telling session led by Aparna Athreya. This session is happening in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition, 'Nandalal Bose (1882-1966) Haripura Panels,' which explores the little-known stories of Haripura through the beauty of visual art.

Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road
When: August 11, 10:30 am



Going dairy-free

A pair of supporters from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and the Aashray Foundation observed World Breastfeeding Week by handing out packets of vegan milk and holding signs reading, "Milk is for Babies! Dump Dairy" at the War Memorial on Brigade Road on Wednesday. The event aimed to remind the public that the mothers of all mammal species produce milk for their own babies and that nobody requires any milk after the age of weaning.

Bengaluru faces early flu surge

Monsoon, start of new academic year, create ideal environment for viruses to replicate: Doctors advise maintaining good hygiene, isolating if one falls sick

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With around 20 confirmed cases and multiple hospitalisations, including ICU admissions, in the last 15 days, health professionals are dealing with an early influenza outbreak affecting all age groups. Meanwhile, the number of undiagnosed cases is likely to be significantly higher. Bengaluru is currently experiencing an unseasonal increase in respiratory illnesses, with early influenza outbreaks being reported, said Dr Vivek Anand Padegal, Director-Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road.

The monsoon brings unique health challenges, with influenza (flu) being a prominent concern. While the weather itself doesn't cause illness, it creates an ideal environment for viruses to thrive, said Dr Srikanta JT, Consultant-Paediatric Interventional Pulmonology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru. "Flu spreads through the respiratory route through coughing or sneezing. Surfaces contaminated with droplets from the infected individual could act as fomites in the transmission of infection," he said.

Dr Srikanta further said that there has been a considerable



"Wear masks, maintain good hygiene to avoid further spread"

Vaccination remains a key preventive measure. To prevent further spread of illness, individuals who are sick should avoid going to work or school

— Dr Vivek Anand Padegal, Director-Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital

increase in influenza cases among children. "Over the last two weeks, close to 25 kids have been treated for the same, some requiring hospitalisation. Fever, chills, body ache, dry cough, headache, asthenia, eye pain, throat pain, rhinitis, and a stuffy nose are some of the common symptoms to watch out for. As the school starts, there is significant fraternising of children as well as an ideal environment for viruses to replicate. This leads to a significant increase in respira-

tory viral infections, mainly influenza," he said.

Dr Padegal added that patients are presenting with a range of symptoms, including fever, cough, body pain, and a sore throat, and some have developed pneumonia. "While individuals of all age groups are being hospitalised, the majority are elderly, with a few requiring intensive care and ventilation. Despite this, most patients show significant improvement within four to five days. Early detection

is crucial, as it allows for the timely administration of antiviral treatments. Additionally, vaccination remains a key preventive measure. To prevent the further spread of illness, individuals who are sick should avoid going to work or school, and those exhibiting symptoms should wear masks to protect others," said Dr Padegal.

Measures to be taken

Dr Srikanta mentioned that, in most cases, the flu is self-limiting and can be managed with symptomatic treatment at home. However, if one develops chest tightness or difficulty breathing, chest pain, giddiness, severe muscle pains, or worsening of underlying medical issues like diabetes, asthma, or seizures, they must seek emergency medical help. He further said, "Vaccination is crucial in reducing the seriousness of influenza. If one gets infected with the flu, it's important to stay off work or school, follow appropriate hand hygiene protocol, cough etiquette, and disinfect surfaces that could be infected with respiratory droplets."

Treatment options

"The flu is treated with hydration and control of fever with antipyretics, antihistamines, and antiseptic throat gargles. Antivirals may be prescribed if presented early with H1N1 influenza type A," Dr Srikanta added.

Employee to be reinstated following unlawful dismissal

The Karnataka High Court has ordered the reinstatement of an "outsourced employee" who was dismissed after taking maternity leave, along with all associated benefits. The bench instructed that the employee be permitted to resume her position until regular appointments were made, and she would be entitled to back wages and benefits under the Maternity Benefit Act. Additionally, it was ordered that the employee be paid Rs 25,000 as costs.

The court bench of Justice MGS Kamal of the Dharwad bench strongly denounced the state's behaviour, declaring, "The state and its instrumentalities, who are expected to act as 'model employers', are finding one after the other reason not only to brazenly flout the constitutional mandate, which they are obligated to uphold and implement in the process of public employment."

In this particular case, the petitioner was employed as an accountant at an assistant director of agriculture's office through a contract with a manpower agency. Upon returning from her maternity leave, which lasted from May 2023 to August 2023, she discovered that someone else had taken her position. Additionally, her salary was discontinued. She sought legal recourse after allegedly receiving only assurances and no concrete action.



The Karnataka government contended that there was no "privity of contract" involving them since the agreement was with the manpower agency, and any grievances should be addressed with the agency. They also argued that while the employee's maternity leave extended until the end of August, the state's contract with the agency concluded in June.

Based on existing laws and previous cases, the bench noted, "...It is clear that when the doctrine of 'lifting of the veil' is applied to the facts of the instant case, the petitioner has indeed made out a case for outright rejection of the contentions of the respondent—that there is no relationship between employer and employee."

The bench emphasised that the authorities continuously required the services of employees like the petitioner, and her services could not be considered temporary or ad hoc.

In fact, the records clearly showed that the respondent authorities relied on the petitioner's services, and her absence had caused them significant inconvenience. **-BMB**

HIGH COURT

State govt, BBMP urged to strengthen preventive measures against dengue

HC asks authorities to focus on necessary actions to curb the spread of dengue through all possible avenues, suggests imposition of fines to check 'menace of mosquito breeding'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday advised the state government and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to implement preventive measures alongside curative efforts to control the spread of dengue in Bengaluru and other districts of the state.

While reviewing the affidavits submitted by the authorities regarding the actions taken to combat dengue, the court's division bench, comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, stated, "The court is of the view that the steps so far demonstrated by authorities, in particular BBMP, are on the curative front and not sufficiently on the preventive front."

The counsel for BBMP informed the court about the awareness measures undertaken and the household surveys conducted to identify breeding grounds, along with regular fogging and spraying activities. The court questioned BBMP's claim of identifying 51 hotspots in Bengaluru, asserting that the extent of mosquito breeding is likely much larger due to the numerous residential, commercial, and construction sites in the city. It also pointed out that the corporation had not provided information about punitive actions taken when mosquito breeding spots are discovered near societies or houses. The bench suggested, "A stern penal action, including the imposition of a fine, may be an answer to check the menace of mosquito breeding, which is the genesis of dengue."



The court acknowledged the Chief Secretary's affidavit of compliance, considering the significance of the matter. It took note of the measures initiated by the authorities, including the readiness of medical infrastructure, availability of medicine, preventive measures, and updating of monitoring agencies in Bengaluru and other districts.

Authenticity concerns

During the hearing, amicus curiae Senior Advocate KN Phanindra raised doubts about the corporation's claim of surveying more than 24 lakh houses in the city, deeming the figure unrealistic. He pointed out that no surveying team had visited the eastern part of the city surrounding the HC, and no preventive measures

were taken to check mosquito hotspots. Pointing to the marginal decrease in the number of cases seen in the reports submitted by the health department, the amicus noted that the cases may see a rise again as the monsoon season is still ongoing. Senior Advocate S Sriranga, representing the petitioner, informed the court about the measures taken in Delhi and other places to control the spread of the disease. He urged the court to consider similar steps in the state.

The court adjourned the matter for further hearing on August 28 and directed the state government and BBMP to file affidavits addressing the court, focussing on preventive measures and other necessary actions to curb the spread of dengue through all possible avenues.

Traffic arrangements for Lalbagh flower show

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced restrictions for motorists ahead of the Independence Day Flower Show, which is being organised by the Department of Horticulture from Thursday.

The 12-day event is expected to attract a massive crowd of 8-10 lakh visitors, comprising tourists, dignitaries, and students.

According to a press release, to manage the increased traffic flow, several major roads will be subject to parking restrictions, including Dr Marigowda Road (from Lalbagh main gate to NIMHANS), KH Road (from KH Circle to Shantinagar junction), Lalbagh Road (from Subbaiah Circle to Lalbagh main gate), and Siddaiah Road (from Urvashi Theatre junction



to Wilson Garden 12th Cross). Moreover, parking will not be allowed on BTS Road, Krumbigal Road, and the roads between Lalbagh West Gate to

RV Teachers College, RV Teachers College to Ashoka Pillar, and Ashoka Pillar to Siddapura Junction.

To accommodate visitors' parking needs, alternative arrangements have been made.

Two-wheeler parking will be available at Al-Ameen College on Dr Marigowda Road.

The Shantinagar BMTC Multi-Storied Parking Lot on KH Road will cater to both four-wheelers and two-wheelers. The Hopcoms Parking Lot on Dr. Marigowda Road and the Corporation Parking Lot on JC Road will also provide parking facilities for both two-wheelers and four-wheelers.

To minimise congestion and ensure a pleasant experience for visitors, the use of public transportation is highly recommended. **-BMB**

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*University of Oxford Report, 2023

Almost all reservoirs 'full'

However, not many lakes have been filled up

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

This year's monsoon presents an irony: while nearly all major reservoirs in the state are either reaching full capacity or coming close, 15.1% of lakes remain dry. Firstly, among the reservoirs where hydroelectricity is produced, Linganamakki, with a gross capacity of 151.75 TMC feet, currently holds 138.42 TMC feet of water, a significant increase from the 69.77 TMC feet recorded in early August 2023. Supa, with a gross capacity of 145.33 TMC feet, now contains 111.61 TMC feet, up from 76.48 TMC feet last year. Similarly, Varahi, which has a gross capacity of 31.10 TMC feet, holds 18.83 TMC feet of water this year compared to 10.72 TMC feet the previous year.

In the Cauvery basin, Harangi, with a gross capacity of 8.50 TMC feet, currently holds 7.36 TMC feet of water, slightly lower than last year's 8.17 TMC feet. Hemavathi, with a gross capacity of 37.10 TMC feet, now has 35.08 TMC feet, up from 30.09 TMC feet last year. The Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir, which has a gross capacity of 49.45 TMC feet, holds 46.03 TMC feet of water compared to 35.30 TMC feet last year. Kabini, with a gross capacity of 19.52 TMC feet, currently holds 17.63 TMC feet, slightly down from 19.17 TMC feet last year.

In the Krishna basin, the Bhadra reservoir, with a gross capacity of 71.54 TMC feet, now contains 67.30 TMC feet of water, up from 46.01 TMC feet last year. Tungabhadra,



A new record of 1,72,161 cusecs was released from KRS into Cauvery River, surpassing the 1973 record

In June and July, southern interior Karnataka received 202mm of fall, which is 42% above average. The northern interior saw 283 mm of rainfall

-Srinivas R, meteorologist

which has a gross capacity of 105.79 TMC feet, holds 98.73 TMC feet of water, an increase from 81.55 TMC feet last year. Ghataprabha, with a gross capacity of 51 TMC feet, now has 47.60 TMC feet of water compared to 36.94 TMC feet last year. Almatti, with a gross capacity of 123.08 TMC feet, holds 67.86 TMC feet of water, down from 110.38 TMC feet last year.

The Linganamakki Reservoir, the state's largest reservoir, has reached full capacity for the 21st time in its

history.

According to Srinivas Reddy, a meteorologist, the rainfall during the monsoon months of June and July is the highest recorded since 1994. Despite a shortfall in June, the substantial rainfall in July has compensated for this deficit and balanced the overall distribution of rainfall. "In June and July, southern interior Karnataka received 202 mm of rainfall, which is 42% above average. The northern interior saw 283 mm of rainfall, 31% above average. The Malnad region recorded 1,199 mm, 28% above average, while the coastal region received 2,409 mm, 24% above average. Overall, the state recorded 593 mm of rainfall, 28% more than the average of 463 mm, surpassing the 30% excess observed in 1994. In the past 30 years, the state has frequently faced rainfall shortages, with only 12 out of 18 years showing above-average rainfall during June and July, including this year," he said. The data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster

Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) shows that while there was a 10% increase in 2003 and a 17% increase in 2013, this year's rainfall is significantly higher.

A new record has been set with the release of 1,72,161 cusecs of water from the KRS into the Cauvery River. Historically, the first instance of releasing over 1 lakh cusecs occurred in 1973, with 1,12,385 cusecs.

Tanks not filled up

Out of the 3,683 tanks managed by the Minor Irrigation Department, 15.1% are completely dry. Specifically, 67.55% of the tanks have less than 50% water capacity, posing challenges for agricultural activities in villages where tanks are not full.

According to the Minor Irrigation Department, if all 3,683 tanks were filled, they could store 107.78 TMC of water, capable of irrigating 4.40 lakh hectares of land.

Potholed road: Hospital or BBMP to blame?

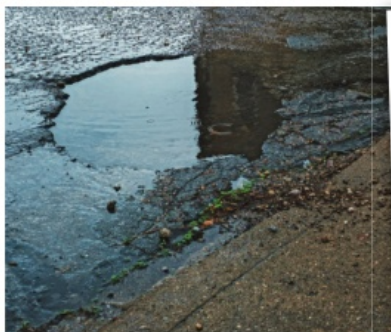
Palike issues show-cause notice to private health facility, alleging it caused road damage by letting water flow onto service road

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Road Infrastructure Department has issued a show-cause notice to a private hospital for allegedly letting water onto the service road, near Outer Ring Road, Bellandur. The show cause notice also mentions Bangalore Mirror's report on the condition of the service road. BM had written on August 6, 2024, about how the service road between Iblur Junction and Centro Mall near Bellandur is full of potholes and craters.

The Assistant Executive Engineer of the Road Infrastructure Department issued the notice to the



File photo showing road with filled with pothole and water

hospital on August 6 asking it to show a cause why the BBMP should not take action against it for damaging roads by letting water from its premises.

"You have to submit the explanation and the reply on why the BBMP should not take legal action against you within three days of receiving this notice. You also have to submit the report on the measures taken to prevent flowing water onto the road. Higher authorities have sought a report on the measures taken on the



BM's Aug 6 report highlights potholes and craters on the service road

complaint published by Bangalore Mirror," the showcase notice read.

Ashok Mruthyunjaya of the Aam Aadmi Party, told BM that it is tragic that BBMP is holding the hospital responsible for its failure. "The whole service road for 1 km is bad with potholes, not just in front of the hospital. Rather than taking responsibility for fixing the entire road, the BBMP is just playing the

blame game and hiding its failures. I would urge the BBMP to think big and look at the entire stretch and fix it. If they want to hold someone accountable, it should be the contractor who fixed that road last time, and the engineer who approved the poor quality work, not the hospital," said Mruthyunjaya.

The show cause notice claimed it contacted the housekeeping staff of the hospital and enquired about letting water onto the road from the hospital premises. "When enquired, the housekeeping staff confessed to letting water onto the road from the premise," the show cause notice read.

When BM called the number listed in the notice, a technician reported that a BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer had inquired about water flowing onto the service road. "I have informed my higher authorities about it. Please contact them for more information," the technician said.

The Assistant Manager said, "Water is flowing onto the service road from the nearby building and not from the hospital."

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Garbage neglected Majestic



Garbage removal has been neglected in the Majestic area today, resulting in significant waste piles. It appears that the waste collection autos are on strike.

Odour alert Vasanth Nagar



At the 10th Cross and 6th Cross junction, diagonally opposite Masjid e Quba in Vasanth Nagar, there is a very bad smell and a lot of mosquitoes. The area has not been cleaned for three days.

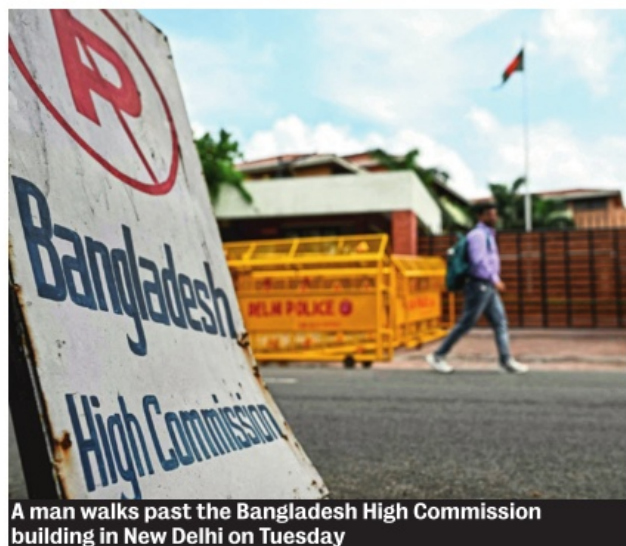
Mosquito danger Doddakallasandra



There's a dengue risk near Mantri Serenity Apartments and Doddakallasandra Metro Station on Kanakapura Road due to stagnant water, which can breed mosquitoes. BBMP needs to act quickly.

Back home, students recall ordeal

Student recounts days of lost contact, fear in Bangladesh; 25 were brought back to India



A man walks past the Bangladesh High Commission building in New Delhi on Tuesday

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Many students from Karnataka studying in Bangladesh have been caught up in the ongoing turmoil in the neighboring country. Most have managed to return home, though some are still unaccounted for. Nehal S, who was pursuing an MBBS degree in Bangladesh, shared his experience, "I had been studying in Bangladesh for the past four years. When the situation deteriorated, we faced significant challenges. For the initial four days, we struggled to contact our families due to network issues. Eventually, we reached out to the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan and MP Jagadish Shettar, who intervened with the Indian embassy to assist us."

Nehal recounted the escalating chaos. "The trouble began on a small scale but quickly intensified. The government responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. Conditions in the hostel became dire as we struggled to find food. We were confined to the hostel and not allowed outside, which created a highly

We struggled to find food. We were confined to the hostel which created a tense environment —Nehal

tense environment." Nehal noted that a total of 13 batches of students were rescued. Nehal returned in the last week of July. "We had to cook our own meals and were terrified to leave the hostel. The college administration also restricted our movements. Despite studying there for four years, I had never faced such a crisis." Nehal was located three hours from Dhaka and expressed concern about how much worse the situation could have become, "Given the worsening conditions, we could have been trapped if we hadn't been evacuated."

With two years remaining in the course, Nehal is still waiting to see if he will need to return to Bangladesh. "We are monitoring the situation closely. If things stabilise, we might receive instructions to return to our college. If that happens, I may have to go back to continue my studies," Nehal said. "Communication would have been even more challenging if social media hadn't been banned."

Rakesh Rajendra Savanur, Nehal's father, shared his ordeal: "My son faced severe network issues in Bangladesh. We struggled to send money, as he couldn't receive it due to the connectivity problems. He also had trouble booking a flight or arranging a taxi. Thankfully, the Indian embassy intervened and arranged a private vehicle to escort him to Kolkata."

On Wednesday, 25 students who had been studying in the troubled region of Bangladesh safely returned to their hometowns.

Auto driver spits at, abuses car driver

An auto driver is accused of having spat at and abused a car driver in an alleged incident of road rage at HAL Main Road on Tuesday night. The clash is said to have begun after the autorickshaw driver blocked the car. When the car driver tried to question this, the auto driver allegedly banged on the car's windshield and used foul language. When the car driver lowered his window to respond, the autorickshaw driver spat on him. The car driver filed a complaint with the HAL police, who are on the lookout for the auto driver. **BMB**

6 arrested for murder of rowdy sheeter: Motive was revenge

The Seshadripuram police have arrested six individuals in connection with the murder of a rowdy sheeter. The suspects, identified as Arun, Ajay, Narasimhan, Prakash, Durga, and Krupa Devi, were apprehended following the killing of Ajith Kumar, a 21-year-old rowdy sheeter.

On August 1, Ajith was attacked and murdered in broad daylight on Rasaldar Street around 4:15 pm. The attack was reportedly driven by a desire for revenge from a father whose son had been killed. The roots of this crime trace back to an incident from two years ago when Ajith Kumar had a dispute with Ganesh, Narasimhan's son, over a

minor issue related to their milk business. This disagreement escalated, leading to Ajith and his accomplices killing Ganesh.

45-year old found dead

An unidentified 45-year-old woman was discovered dead, having taken her own life, in an apartment complex located on Margosa Road, Malleswaram, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The tragic incident came to light when a resident of the area, who was out walking his dog around 7 am, saw the woman's body in the balcony on the fourth floor of the building.

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'It's sad day for us'

Ashoka reacts to Phogat's disqualification for being overweight; Indian Olympic Association protests, as Phogat's weight was slightly above limit

Leaders of the Opposition in Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R Ashoka, said that it was a very sad day as Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat got disqualified from the Paris Olympics after she was found overweight in the 50 kg category.

Ashoka said, "It's a sad day for us. It is really very sad. I can't say anything."

He further said that mentally, Indians anticipated a gold medal after Phogat qualified for the finals of freestyle wrestling in the 50 kg category at the Paris Olympics 2024.

"I think mentally, Indians anticipated a gold medal," he said.

Earlier, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling (UWW) after Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being "overweight" in the 50 kg category.



Today, her weight was found to be 50 kg 100 grammes and she was disqualified. The Indian Olympic Association has lodged a strong protest with United World Wrestling

— Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Mandaviya said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha and asked her to take the necessary action.

"Today her weight was found to be 50 kg 100 grams and she was disqualified. The IOA has lodged a strong protest with the United World Wrestling (UWW). IOA President PT Usha is in Paris; the Prime Minister spoke to her and asked her to take necessary action," the minister said.

A statement issued by the Indian Olympic contingent earlier said that Vinesh Phogat had tipped the scales above the 50 kg mark and was disqualified.

"It is with regret that the Indian contingent shares news of the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat from the Women's Wrestling 50 kg class. Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she weighed in a few grams over 50 kg this morning. No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time. The Indian team requests you respect Vinesh's privacy. It would like to focus on the competitions on hand," the statement read.

Vinesh Phogat had entered the Olympic final after beating Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez 5-0 in the semi-finals on Tuesday night.

After Vinesh Phogat's disqualification, Yusneylis Guzman Lopez will be competing for the gold against United States's Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.

—ANI

SI's death: HM offers Rs 50L aid

Karnataka Home Minister, G Parameshwara, on Wednesday announced Rs 50 lakh compensation for the family of a police Sub-Inspector Parashurama who was found dead at his home in Yadgir City.

The HM, however, ruled out the possibility of handing over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Speaking to reporters after visiting the residence of the deceased Dalit police officer in Somanal Village in Koppal District on Wednesday, Parameshwara stated that the government has considered the case seriously. "We will provide a job for the SI's wife. She had asked for a job at the Raichur Agriculture University or Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (GESCOM). I will speak to CM Siddaramaiah regarding providing employment. We will provide compensation of Rs 50 lakh from the Home Department," he stated.

Allegations of mental harassment by seeking money for a post-

Case won't be handed over to CBI. We will provide a job for the SI's wife & strive to give justice to his family

ing have been made against a Congress MLA and his son. An enquiry has been ordered and a probe is on. "I ordered a probe by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on the day the allegations cropped up. We have fixed a time frame of two years before a police officer is transferred," Parameshwara maintained.

When asked about the BJP's demand for a CBI probe into the matter, he asserted, "I need not learn from the Opposition. The case won't be handed over to the CBI. It is not a fit case for the CBI probe. We will strive to give justice to the family of the SI. If they do not get justice, we will see about that."

Shivapura, Kasturi Nagar most affected by ground ozone

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Shivapura in Peenya and Kasturi Nagar are the most chronically affected by ground ozone pollution in Bengaluru. While Kasturi Nagar exceeded the prescribed standards of this air pollutant on 49 days this year, ozone pollution was high in Shivapura Peenya on 13 days. Jayanagar, Bapuji Nagar, and Silk Board recorded the least instances of ground-level ozone exceedances.

These observations are made in an assessment conducted on air quality data from 14 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) in the city by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi.

The report by CSE also highlights that in the summer of 2024 (between April 1 and July 18); the ground-level ozone exceeded the prescribed

limit for 13 days across the city. The worst day of ground ozone pollution was on April 2 when 2 out of 14 stations recorded higher levels.

As per the assessment, ground-level ozone has become a year-long problem in the city. The report underlines that even though the ground-level ozone exceedance is the worst during summer, a few locations continue to record exceedance throughout the year.

While the dangerous build-up of ground-level ozone can happen anytime during the year, it is usually in small pockets during non-summer months. For it to have a wider spatial spread, hot and sunny weather conditions are needed which are generally present in the city throughout the year outside monsoon.

Researchers through the report have highlighted that ground ozone pollution in Bengaluru is at its worst during January-March. Exceedances go down from May onwards and then there is a considerable uptick in ozone



'The ground-level ozone has become a year-long problem in the city'

pollution after monsoon – especially November-December.

Last year higher levels of ozone were reported on 67 days, they were 12 days in 2022, 48 days in 2021, and 61 days in 2020. This year so far 59 days of exceedance have been recorded in Bengaluru.

The analysis also shows that compared to April of 2020 ground-level ozone hourly peak on average has gone down by 20 percent. The re-emergence of morning and evening rush-hour traffic is helping in neutralising ground-level ozone at sunrise and sunset as increased NO2 levels cannibalise it. The maximum 8-hour average was recorded at Shivapura Peenya when the level hit 160.5 µg/m3 on 21 January 2024. It was followed by Kasturi Nagar and Peenya.

"Given the data cap of 200 µg/m3 enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at the 15-minute granularity, this underscores the magnitude of the pollution," noted the study.



STUDIES IN AUTISM

Study links plastic chemical exposure in pregnancy to increased autism risk in sons



Higher levels of the plastic chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in pregnant mothers are more likely to give birth to sons with autism, a new study has found.

The study led by Wah Chin Boon and Professor Anne-Louise Ponsonby, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, supports the hypothesis of a possible link between autism and exposure to plastic chemicals in the womb.

Ponsonby said the researchers analysed two large birth cohorts – the Barwon Infant Study (BIS) in Australia and the Columbia Centre for Children's Health and Environment in the USA.

"Exposure to plastic chemicals during pregnancy has already been shown in some studies to be associated with subsequent autism in offspring," Ponsonby said.

"Our work is important because it demonstrates one of the biological mechanisms potentially involved. BPA can disrupt hormone-controlled male fetal brain development in several ways, including silencing a key enzyme, aromatase, that controls neurohormones and is especially

important in fetal male brain development. This appears to be part of the autism puzzle," she said.

The study examined children with lower levels of the enzyme aromatase, which in the brain converts testosterone to neuroestrogen.

The link between BPA presence and autism was particularly evident in the top fifth of boys with vulnerability to the endocrine-disrupting properties of this chemical. Boys in that group, born to mothers with higher urinary BPA levels in late pregnancy, were 3.5 times more likely to have autism symptoms by age 2 and 6 times more likely to have a verified autism diagnosis by age 11 compared to those whose mothers had lower levels of BPA during pregnancy.

In both birth cohorts, mechanistic evidence demonstrated higher BPA levels were associated with epigenetic suppression of the aromatase enzyme overall. In laboratory work, Dr. Boon found that prenatal BPA suppressed the aromatase enzyme and was associated with anatomical, neurological, and behavioral changes in male mice that may be consistent

with autism spectrum disorder.

"This is the first time a biological pathway has been identified that might help explain the connection between autism and BPA," Boon said.

Ponsonby added that BPA and similar bisphenols are now widespread and almost impossible to avoid.

"It's important for us to understand how these plastics affect our health," she said.

These findings are informing public safety regulators to update safety recommendations on chemical exposure during pregnancy and early life. The team is also investigating ways to mitigate BPA's effects, with Boon noting that a fatty acid called 10-hydroxy-2-decanoic acid tested in mice could be promising.

Brain cells maturing quickly possibly behind intellectual disabilities, autism: Study

A faster-than-normal development of brain could be a possible reason for humans to develop intellectual disabilities or autism, according to a study.

Brain cells or neurons, especially those in the cognition re-

gion -- the cerebral cortex -- take years to fully mature, a process called 'neoteny' and known to be critical for developing advanced cognitive (thinking) processes distinct to humans.

The gene SYNGAP1, according to researchers, encourages a prolonged development of these neurons.

However, the researchers at the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology, Belgium, found that changes or mutations to the gene disrupted the prolonged development, which they said could underlie some forms of intellectual disability and autism.

Intellectual disabilities refer to a set of neurodevelopmental conditions that affect one's functioning in two aspects - cognitive (thinking) processes, including learning and problem solving, and adaptive processes involving daily activities such as communication and being social. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder in which one displays repetitive behaviour along with affected social skills.

For the study, published in the journal Neuron, the researchers transplanted human neurons having mutated SYNGAP1 genes into brains of mice and then followed their development and function.

Studying the connections between neurons in the mice, the mutated neurons were found to "display a strong acceleration of their development" even as they "looked normal in most aspects", according to first author Ben Vermaercke.

"Most strikingly, they connected much faster with other neurons," Vermaercke said.

The mutated neurons merged faster into those in the cortical region and responded to visual information months ahead of their normal development schedule, indicating that maturing quickly led to early functionality of the neurons, the authors said.

While the previous studies have found that changes to the SYNGAP1 gene are a major cause of intellectual disabilities, the specific effects of the resulting disruption to the brain cells remained largely unknown, according to the researchers.

The findings have implications for understanding and developing treatment for intellectual disabilities and autism, they said.

—IANS/PTI



All you need to know about...

Breastfeeding

Reduces risk of PPD

Breastfeeding can potentially reduce the risk of postpartum depression, said experts on Wednesday. World Breastfeeding Week is held in the first week of August every year, supported by World Health Organization, and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The theme for 2024 is Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All.

Impact on maternal health

While the numerous benefits of breastfeeding for infants are widely acknowledged, there's a less discussed but crucial connection: its impact on maternal mental health, specifically postpartum depression.

What is PPD

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a medical condition that many women experience within the first 2 to 3 days after delivery and may last for up to two weeks. It's typically characterised by strong feelings of sadness, anxiety (worry), and tiredness that last for a long time after giving birth. It also includes mood swings, crying spells, anxiety, and difficulty sleeping

Overlooked issue

Research shows about one in seven women can have postpartum depression. PPD and anxiety are often overlooked challenges that many new mothers face. "Depression and anxiety disorders represent the most common obstetric complications during pregnancy and the first year postpartum, reducing the mother's ability to effectively perceive, decipher, and respond to their infant's needs," Manisha Khalane, Lactation Consultant, Surya Mother and Child Super Speciality Hospital, Pune, told IANS.

A recent study published in The International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine showed that women who breastfeed their babies were found to have a lower risk of developing PPD. The effects were maintained in those women over the first four months after child delivery. —IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

Engineers develop earbuds to combat drowsiness while driving

Drowsy driving is a critical hazard which contributes to road accidents worldwide. However, engineers have now developed earbuds to address the drowsiness while driving.

Engineers at the University of California, Berkeley, have developed prototype earbuds that can detect signs of drowsiness in the brain, aiming to protect drivers and machine operators from the dangers of drowsiness.

The earbuds function like an

electroencephalogram (EEG), measuring brain waves through built-in electrodes that contact the ear canal. While the electrical signals detected are smaller than those in traditional EEGs, the new study shows that the Ear EEG platform is sensitive enough to detect alpha waves, a pattern of brain activity that increases when drowsiness sets in.

"I was inspired when I bought my first pair of Apple's AirPods in 2017. I immediately thought what

an amazing platform for neural recording. We believe this technology can classify drowsiness, indicating its potential to classify sleep and diagnose sleep disorders," said study author Rikky Muller, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley. Creating an earbud that fits a variety of ear sizes and shapes posed significant challenges. While other groups used wet electrode gels or custom-moulded earpieces, Muller's team aimed

for a dry, user-generic model that anyone could use. "My goal was to create a device usable every day by those who would benefit from it," said Ryan Kaveh, the designer.

Kaveh designed the earpiece in three sizes. The design includes multiple electrodes applying gentle pressure to the ear canal, ensuring a comfortable fit, with signals read through a low-power, wireless interface. In a paper, the researchers demonstrated the earpieces could detect physiological signals, including eye blinks and alpha brain waves. —IANS

Closed door policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and technical expertise. Additionally, issuing separate tenders for the installation of PSDs introduces further delays."

Cost is another significant hurdle. "Installing PSDs at a single station is estimated to cost around ₹10 crore. The process must be carefully managed to avoid disrupting passengers, which complicates the installation. Discussions are ongoing to prioritise stations with the highest footfall for PSD installation, but extending this safety feature to all stations will require further planning and resources," said the official.

Considering that the financial aspect is considerable, BMRL is also said to be exploring ways to install PSDs at high-traffic stations first. "Comprehensive implementation will require extensive discussions and budget allocation," the official added. The Purple Line encompasses 37 stations, while the Green Line includes 29 stations.

The third challenge involves conducting installations while the metro services are operational. "Implementing PSDs without interrupting train schedules or passenger flow presents a logis-



cal conundrum. Officials need to devise strategies that balance the urgency of the installation with the practicalities of maintaining uninterrupted metro operations.

We need to carefully plan the installation process to minimise disruption. This involves evaluating various operational scenarios and coming up with effective measures to ensure that trains continue to run smoothly during the installation phase," the official noted.

Safety concerns

Passengers also expressed concern about the ongoing safety issues and support the plan to install PSDs. Suresh Kumar, a frequent commuter, said, "The suicides at the platforms are deeply troubling. While we under-

New record

Namma Metro surpassed its previous ridership records with a total of 8,26,883 passengers traveling by Metro on Tuesday, marking the highest footfall to date. Now, Metro officials said that if the ridership continues, it may hit a million by year end once the new phases are operational.

stand that the installation of PSDs is a complex and costly endeavour, it is essential for our safety. We hope the metro authorities will address these challenges promptly." Sheetal Rao, another regular passenger, added that she believed that installing PSDs is a crucial step toward preventing these tragic incidents.

"It's crucial that the authorities find a way to overcome the technical and financial hurdles to ensure our safety. While the installation of Platform Screen Doors in Bangalore's metro system promises enhanced safety, addressing the technical, financial, and operational challenges is essential for its successful implementation. The commitment to improving passenger safety reflects a broader effort to create a secure and efficient transit environment."

'Native species play big role in supporting biodiversity'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the area to improve faunal diversity and soil quality.

"Jarakabande Kaval forest is almost double the size of Jnana Bharati campus. However, the number of trees on the BU campus is higher than in Jarakabande. There are opportunities to plant more trees and improve the carbon sink capacity of the forest patch," added Nandini.

So far, the committee has looked at a few spots in Bengaluru South Taluk, Kaggalipura range, Kumbalgodu state forest, and Hulthar state forest, to mention a few.

Taking stock

Bengaluru's BMC was recently revived by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The four-member committee has recently submitted a financial plan for all operations, including updating the long-pending People's Biodiversity

Register (PBR).

As per the zone-wise draft budget plan to catalog Bengaluru's biodiversity, every zone will require Rs 14.85 lakh. As per the proposal, the money will be used for various activities required to record current flora and fauna. This includes the formation of zone-wise BMCs, sensitisation of the public about the study, surveys and possible management strategies, training of members in identifying and collecting data on biological resources and traditional knowledge, analysis, and validation of data in consultation with a technical support group, preparation of PBR, and computerization of information and resources.

"BMC members are visiting Jarakabande Kaval on August 10 and 12 to understand steps to be taken for biodiversity enrichment. They will also document their findings, which will later be used for PBR," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), BBMP.



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I, Lakshmi Bandaru W/o Nageshwara Rao Poliparthi R/o 46, Amulya Iyt, Jaala Hobli, Chikkajala, Bengaluru 562157 have changed my name to Lakshmi Poliparthi Affidavit Dt.07/08/2024 notary Harisha G, B'lore

I Santhosh Kumar S/o Kheemraj Jain R/o Flat 102, 2nd Floor, No 06, Vaishnavi Vaibhav Apartments, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Gavipuram Extension Bengaluru 560019, have changed my name to Santhosh Kumar Jain for all purposes.

WE, Raghavendra Sangamesh and Jyotsna Sangamesh, R/o no 609 Kumari amaranthine apartment doddakannali, Bangalore- 560035, we have changed our minor daughter name from Khushi Sangamesh to Khushi R Sangamesh

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DOCUMENT LOST

I, N R DIWAKAR, R/o No.179, 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, 3rd Phase, 3rd Stage Banashankari Bangalore-85, and General power of attorney that was done from NR DIWAKAR to BN RADHAKRISHNA in 2006, have lost while traveling from Banashankari to Majestic on 24 July 24. Police complaint given vide no. 1159359/2024 on 24-07-2024. If anyone finds, can contact the above address or 9986074156.

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Sept: 4, 17, Oct: 2, 16, Nov: 6, 20

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Sept: 5, 20, 26, Oct: 4, 7, 14, 18, 24, Nov: 5, 10

AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 16 DAYS

Sept: 13, 20, 27, Oct: 4, 11, 13, 18, 25, Nov: 1, 8

MADHYA PRADESH 15 DAYS

Sept: 13 Oct: 4, 18, 25, Nov: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

PURI BHUVANESHWAR/GANGTOK DARJEELING* 8/15* DAYS

Oct: 15, 22, 29, Nov: 5, 12, 19, 26



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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Laughter riot



Veteran character actor Rangayana Raghu was in a good mood at the trailer launch of Powder on Wednesday. Raghu plays one of the seven characters in the film. Powder has an ensemble of actors such as Diganth, Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Dhanya Ramkumar, Sharmiela Mandre, Ravishankar Gowda, Nagabhushana, Anirudh Acharya.

Raghu said, "Deshpande is an amazing actor. We are very lucky to see him continue acting. I am also very happy to have Dhanya Ramkumar, the granddaughter of Dr Rajkumar, in this movie. Sharmiela Mandre has acted well. All movie goers must Kannada movies at theaters rather than on mobile phones," said Raghu.

Nagabhushana, one of the seven characters, said he participated in the shooting for 15 days. "I am very happy to be part of this movie," said Nagabhushana. School children were in splits when Sharmiela Mandre said that she wanted to play the heroine for Rangayana Raghu if there is an opportunity while Dhanya Ramkumar said that she wanted to be the heroine for three heroes.

Dedicated to police force



Pramod Shetty, known for playing villain and police officer roles in Kannada films, graduates as a hero with Laughing Buddha directed by Bharath Raj M. Prior to this, Bharath Raj helmed the film Hero. Rishab Shetty bankrolled both Hero and Laughing Buddha.

A song from Laughing Buddha was screened at Renukamba Preview Theater on Wednesday. Producer, actor, and director Rishab Shetty, who is known for his sterling performance in multi-lingual movie Kantara, said that he dedicated the movie Laughing Buddha to the police. "I had a different opinion on the police during my high school days. I changed my opinion when I became friends with some police officers. Laughing Buddha showcases the lifestyle of police constables and officers and also narrates how they have to deal with fraudsters, anti-social elements, and rowdies on a daily basis," said Rishab. He said he wanted to play the character played by Diganth but could not do so as he was busy with Kantara shooting. "Initially, director Bharath Raj wanted me to play that character but finally we selected Diganth. Diganth has done a fantastic job," he said.

Pramod Shetty said he was shocked when Rishab Shetty told him about his decision of selecting him as the hero for the movie. "It was a big surprise for me. I asked him what made him invest money to make a movie with me as a hero. Rishab Shetty told me that he is investing money on the story," said Pramod Shetty.

WHY CHOOSE?

When you can have both, is DP's answer

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are expecting their first baby in September. The couple had made this announcement in March this year and since then, fans cannot stop gushing over how adorable Deepika looks now.

DP was last seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD' which got rave reviews and great box office success both. The actress who seems on a break at the moment, will be seen next in 'Singham Again'.

While her plans post the arrival of the baby, are yet unknown, here's recalling the time when Deepika was asked to choose between 'babies or movies'.

The actress had appeared on 'Koffee With Karan' with Ranveer. This was the first time they did an

interview together post marriage.

However, before that the actress was seen with Alia Bhatt. This was before she and Ranveer even got married. During the rapid fire, in that episode Karan Johar asked DP to pick one between, 'movies or babies'. Deepika was quick and witty to respond, as she said, "babies while doing movies."

Alia who was with Deepika in that episode seems to be following the same answer now, as she's beautifully balancing motherhood with movies. Alia got back to work within four months of having a baby. The first thing she shot after Raha's birth was the song 'Tum Kya Mile' from 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. Post that, she finished shooting for 'Jigra' and is now doing an action film 'Alpha' which is a part of YRF's spy universe. Well, one can expect Deepika also to strike a balance between babies and movies beautifully! Ranveer and DP both will be seen next in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again'. — ETimes

Malaika Arora turns to 'detox'



Actress and model Malaika Arora, who was recently in the Maldives for a professional commitment, has dropped her pictures from the tropical paradise, enjoying fruits by the seaside. Malaika, who has 18.9 million followers on Instagram, shared a string of pictures, wherein we can see her posing at a resort in Maldives, wearing a white bathrobe. Posing against the picturesque backdrop of the wide blue sea, Malaika is enjoying a plate of fresh fruits.

The post is captioned as: "Jus me n my fruit.... #detox #antioxidants." A fan commented on the post: "Ur still a bombshell at 50." Another user said: "Hottie." On the work front, Malaika has appeared as a VJ for MTV India, hosting shows such as 'Club MTV', 'MTV Loveline',

'MTV Style Check', and 'Style Mantra'. She has been the judge on reality shows like -- 'Nach Baliye', 'Zara Nachke Dikha', 'Perfect Bride', 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa', 'India's Got Talent', 'India's Next Top Model', 'MTV Supermodel of the Year', 'India's Best Dancer'.

Malaika has also appeared in the reality series 'Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives'. The show focuses on the personal and professional lives of Neelam Kothari, Maheep Kapoor, Bhavna Pandey and Seema Kiran Sajdeh, wives of actors Samir Soni, Sanjay Kapoor, Chunky Pandey and Sohail Khan (divorced) respectively.

She also featured in the show 'Moving in With Malaika'. Malaika had tied the knot with Bollywood actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan in 1998, however, the couple announced divorce on May 11, 2017. — IANS

Love for Indian handloom

On the occasion of National Handloom Day on Wednesday, actresses Sobhita Dhulipala and Karisma Kapoor have talked about their love for Indian handlooms.

National Handloom Day is celebrated on August 7 to recognise and honour the contribution of weavers to the nation's economy and culture. Sobhita took to Instagram, where she shared pictures of weavers and captioned it: "Handloom Is more than a craft, more than beauty, it is a prayer."

She urged everyone to "support talented and hard-

working weavers." "Please show support to our talented, hardworking weavers and nurture our magnificent heritage." Karisma took to her Instagram stories, where she shared two pictures of herself in Indian wear and wrote: "Indian Handloom Forever #NationalHandloomDay."

Sobhita was last seen in actor Dev Patel's directorial debut, "Monkey Man". Karisma is currently seen as a judge on the dance-based reality show "India's Best Dancer Season 4." She was last seen in movie "Murder Mubarak". — IANS

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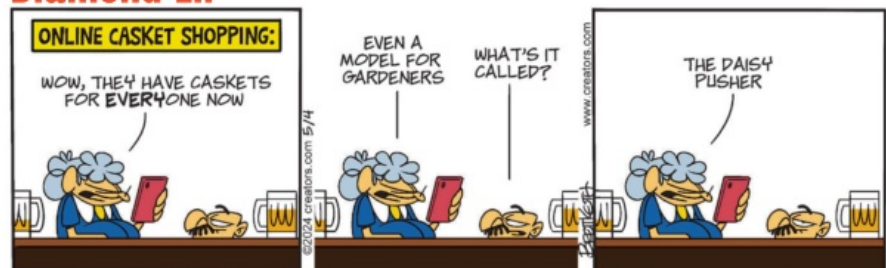
Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



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Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your earnings may be converted into profits now. You are likely to invest for a long time. There will be no work-related pressure. You may get an overseas work order, which may give you financial benefits in the future. You may find your soulmate. Students may hear good news about their academics.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may help you improve your inner strength. You are likely to get some new opportunities for your business and work, which will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. Lovebirds are advised to be clear in their opinions with each other to make their future bright.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you increase your concentration, which will speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project on time. There may be some short trips related to work. You may likely meet an influential person who may help you boost your business.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon; you may perform well in your professional field. You may implement your business plans very easily with the help of your colleagues. You may use your wisdom to gain benefits. Intellectual investments and financial investments may start yielding profits now, which may increase your confidence levels.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Things are now under control. Your performance may be praised by your seniors, and you may expect promotions. Money that was stuck is likely to be recovered now, which may help increase liquidity in the business. In partnerships, many issues are likely to be resolved now. There may be some good news in terms of legal matters, too.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may spend money to buy some creative or artistic artefacts to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. You may also implement some new plans in your family business, and it will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social get-togethers.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your way of thinking may be positive. You may plan to visit a religious place. Your spiritual power may make you happy. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself and try to discuss them with those who may understand your feelings.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may hear good news in terms of a job. Job seekers may be focused on cracking entrance exams with the help of hard work. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage. Couples may have some good news in terms of childbirth.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. This is your challenge to avoid straightforwardness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may feel nervous, and you may lack patience. You may also be attracted to the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain in-depth knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research; praying may help you in this situation.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may plan for a change in place; however, it is advised to postpone the decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investing in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation and plan ahead for the future.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you are not blessed by the moon. You may feel unhappy, and you may become impatient. You want to be detached from the given responsibility. You may find it difficult to perform your task, so you may be unable to complete any tasks and end up with incomplete work. You may also not be able to fulfil your desire.

KIDZONE



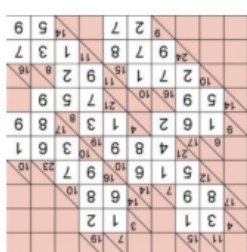
Anika, 5 years, Sri Kumarans Children Home



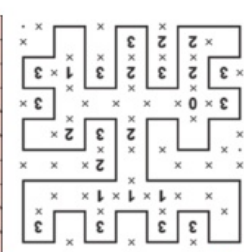
Agasthya Ajay Murthy, 6 years, National Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

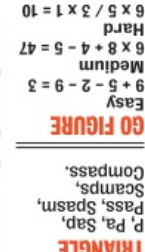
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